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The Flag Follows the Citizen.

We think no loyal American and fairminded citizen will now be disposed to withhold from President ROOSEVELT and Secretary HAY full credit and high bonor for the energetic measures which have resulted in the release of Ion PER-DICABIS.

The naval demonstration at Tangier has been criticised as inordinate. But it has accomplished its purpose and thereby justified the Administration's method of dealing with a troublesome incident. This is what our ships are for. The despatch of every available vossel in the Government's service would be no excessive display of vigor, if needed to emphasize the fact that our flag follows and protects our citizens in any part of the world.

There is no braggadocio in the assertion of this principle. Mr. ROOSEVELT did his duty with the promptness and adequate display of resources which might have been expected under the circumstances from an Executive of his

The expedition to Tangier has justified itself, both by practical success in the case of the individual concerned and as an impressive illustration of a fixed national purpose with regard to all who have the right to claim the protection of the American flag.

Christianity.

A very able correspondent, whose letter we printed a few days ago, constructed an argument to sustain an assertion or assumption, with which he started out, that "for a hundred and fifty years the Christian religion has been slowly expiring." To-day his position is assailed by a clerical correspondent as unsupported by the facts of history and of the present condition of thought and of practice in the civilized world; but another writer takes the ground that it is proved "clearly enough" by contemporary sentiment and conduct.

Undoubtedly, this discussion is pro-

voked at this time by the terrible catastrophe in New York harbor, which turned the thoughts of both the faithful and the infidel to the question of a religious or a purely natural explanation for the phenomens of life and of the universe. A great political canvass is at hand, and coincidently with that disaster the concluding preparations for the national convention of one of the great political parties were made, and now it has nominated its ticket for President and Vice-President and propounded the principles and policies on which it will appeal to the people. Meantime, the other of the great political parties is making ready for a speedy decision of the principles and policies it will take in opposition. Even at this time of preparation for a momentous election the religious question is paramount in the minds of very many

of our correspondents. This demonstration justifies the conchusion of our clerical correspondent of to-day, from his private observations, that the interest in the subject of religion is peculiarly great at this time. It is true, as he says, that, in spite of the present discussion of a question which assumes religious decadence - "Why Don't Men Go to Church?"-men now are actually going to church as much as ever, and perhaps more than ever. Church attendance in this country, certainly, is larger proportionately than it was at the foundation of our republic, at which time the religious condition here was not encouraging. 'French infidelity," as it was called, the religious infidelity borrowed from a brilliant French school of writers at the revolutionary period in France, was fashionable among the men prominent in the organization of this republic.

Since then American Churches have increased and strengthened, until now something like thirty millions of the eighty millions of our population are communicants of Churches, representing, according to religious statisticians, nearly three-fourths of the American people, including church members and those who are directly under the influence of the churches. Dr. WALTER LAIDLAW, an authority in religious statistics, estimates the "churchless population" at less than twenty-two millions. Censuses of church attendance in our largest cities agree, however, in finding that only something like a fourth of the population go to church. Small as that fraction may seem, it is greater, however, than the percentage of churchgoers in London and probably greater than in any

Church attendance of the present time is attributed by another correspondent to motives largely other than religious—to merely conventional, exberior conformity, when the essence of religious faith has been lost. Very likely, there is much of such purely sfunctory church-going, as there has more or less than in the past is purely conjectural. The only fact which seems to be demonstrated is that doubt and m of religious and theological mes are more widespread and more

country of Continental Europe.

fence of the Bible has been formed-patent evidence that faith in supernatural Revelation has been shattered even in religious minds. The Presbyterians have felt compelled to revise their standard of faith. In the Episcopal Church clergymen and Bishops of learning and distinction practically give up the dogma of the Incarnation as stated in the Apostles' Creed. Eternal punishment is denied or evaded in pulpits and in essays representative of Churches once strictly orthodox.

It will be seen, therefore, that there is room for a difference of opinion concerning the Christian religion-whether it is progressing or falling back-according to the predilections of the individual.

This fact, however, is indisputable: Christianity as an organization isstronger in the world to-day than ever. Relatively to the population, in this country, certainly, there are more Christian churches now than there were a hundred years ago, and more than fifty years ago-more churches and more churchgoers. In the breasts of more of these nominal worshippers relatively, are there hidden more and more precisely formulated doubts than there were at any previous period among the religiously disposed? Perhaps so; but Christianity as an institution continues strong and in many respects is more powerful than ever in the hearts of men.

Our infidel correspondent proposes a Church of this World "-a Church of materialism and of science—as a successor to the Christian Church of supernaturalism; but religion without worship of a supernatural Power is impossible. You can build a moral philosophy on science, but not a religion.

Indiana and Wisconsin.

The political importance of Indiana is largely reminiscent; that of Wisconsin is contemporary. Indiana has 15 electoral votes; Wisconsin has 13. Indiana has the same electoral vote as it had in 1872, when Wisconsin's vote was only 10.

The former influence of Indiana was due to two causes: it was one of the October States, holding its State election in the month preceding the national election, and was the most uncertain and closely contested of the October States. It was noted for its leaders on both sides: HENDRICES, McDonald, Voorhees, Holman, and "Bluejean" Williams among the Democrats, and Morron, HARRISON, GRESHAM, PORTER and COL-FAX among the Republicans. These Indiana leaders, who showed their popularity at the polls, have been succeeded generally by leaders with little popular support, men selected by other leaders, by committees and the choice of political committeemen.

Indiana is geographically between two larger States, Ohio and Illinois, and on their politics it exercises no great influence. Wisconsin, with nearly as many electoral votes as Indiana, is the most uncertain State of the "Lake group," which includes Minnesota with 11 and Michigan with 13 electoral votes. Wisconsin elected a De aperatic Governor in 1890, and reelected him in 1892, his Republican opponent being John C. SPOONER. In the latter year the Democrate carried the State for CLEVELAND.

With the Republican party squarely divided in Wisconsin this year, and two Republican candidates in the field, Wisconsin will probably claim more attention in the Democratic National mittee than ever before.

The Columbia Leasehold.

The budget of Columbia for the year beginning July 1 shows that the interest on the university's debt has increased during the past twelvementh from \$136,726 to \$224,090. Part of this increase no doubt represents an advance in the rate of interest, without any enlargement of the principal of the debt. Trustees' notes renewed under the conditions which prevailed in the financial markets last year presumably carry a higher rate of interest than they formerly did.

At the same time, the principal of the debt has also grown, partly through the purchase of land on Morningside Heights. The budget indicates that unless aid is received from unexpected quarters a serious deficit will have to be faced before the end of the year. The running expenses will aggregate \$1,375,874, while the estimated income is only \$1,069,472.

The university's principal source of income, apart from students' fees, is the ground rents obtained from its property in the four blocks between Forty-seventh and Fifty-first streets and Fifth and Sixth avenues. Calculated on the basis of the market value of the property. the rate of income from the ground rents is less than the rate of interest carried by the university debt.

The freehold value of the realty has increased rapidly in the recent past. The full benefit of the enhancement cannot be realized, however, until the expiration of the existing leases, the bulk

of which have many years yet to run. Whether the value of the holding will continue to advance in the near future is at least doubtful. If the property were available for reimprovement the tendency toward higher prices might persist. Fifth avenue has already become a shopping thoroughfare as far as Forty-seventh street. The side streets between Madison Square and the Columbia leaseholds comprise the principal apartment hotel and clubhouse centre in the city. But the houses now on the Columbia property, coupled with the existing long term leases, practically restrict the land to use as sites for private residences.

If some of the lots were to be let for business purposes the attractiveness of the rest as residence sites would be destroyed. The process of reconstruction, once started, would require many years for completion. It would be attended by no end of trouble with tenants, and perhaps temporary diminution of income. The city's supply of apartment hotels is just now in advance of requirements, and few are likely to be projected for some time, even assuming that builders would care to erect such houses

and of revolt that a league for the de- expect any further increment of the freehold value? The demand for high grade residences has fallen off to a notable extent during the past two years. Recent sales have almost invariably been at reduced prices. Many competent observers believe that improved transportation will presently modify the influences that have heretofore been sufficiently paramount to create a single fashionable residence neighborhood in the heart of the city. Permanent residence on suburban estates is a growing practice among people of wealth, and with proper transportation it is thought that colonies are likely to arise on the outskirts of the city to dispute the primacy of fashion with Fifth avenue.

Therefore, considering the financial situation of the university and the probable future of its investment property, the trustees undoubtedly acted with judgment in determining to extinguish the more onerous part of the debt by disposing of the block bounded by Forty-seventh and Forty-eighth streets and Fifth and Sixth avenues.

Columbia owned the entire square with the exception of the Sixth avenue frontage. The holding comprised seventytwo lots. Most of the leases on this property run out in two to five years from now. A few, however, extend until 1923. Their presence in a compact group led the trustees to withhold the southerly half of the Fifth avenue frontage and six adjoining lots on Forty-seventh street. In order to preserve the residential character of the neighborhood, it was determined that all the lots submitted for sale except those comprising the northerly half of the Fifth avenue frontage and three adjoining lots on Forty-eighth street, should be restricted to private dwellings until 1919. The leaseholders being the logical buyers, the right to purchase was extended to them exclusively for a specified period.

The offer, made last January, came as hardship. The leaseholds had been freely traded in, and had commanded a premium on the expectation that new eases would be obtainable. If the freehold had to be bought at full market value the bonus paid for the leasehold would naturally be converted into a

The tenants, alarmed by the possibility of having to protect their homes by heavy unexpected expenditures, were also offended by the university's mode of procedure, which, they claim, was inconsiderate and peremptory. They could obtain no statement as to whether leases would be renewed in cases where tenants might be unable or unwilling to buy. The prices were fixed without consulting the leaseholders, and the trustees refused to submit them to arbitration. An association was formed to look after the interests of the tenants, but led to no substantial results, except to determine considerable number of its members o decline Columbia's offer.

The time set for the sale of the lots to the leaseholders exclusively expired June 15. Of the sixty-two lots offered, thirtyhree have been sold. Twenty-eight of the tenants, one of whom holds two lots, refused to buy. The total of the prices established for all the lots was \$3,805,500. Only \$1,620,500 was realized.

The trustees have not announced their intention with regard to the unsold lots. cumbered of the leases, the lots would hardly prove an attractive purchase to any one but a tenant. The ground rents, established sixteen to nineteen years ago, show a return of only 1% to 21/2 per cent. on the trustees' prices. The leaseholders who declined to buy propose to wait until the expiration of their leases, when the university, or its successor if it sells in the meantime, will be compelled either to grant new leases or purchase the tenants' houses at an arbitrated valuation. This policy is expected to prove embarrassing to the trustees, who are believed to be in urgent need of ready money.

The partial failure of the sale raised the question whether the trustees may not undertake to dispose of some of the property in the three blocks to the northward. Evidently, however, they have no present intention of resorting to this measure, as an attempt is being made to induce the tenants there to cancel unexpired leases and accept new ones providing a 4 per cent. return on revised ground values fixed by the trustees.

Tenants in the block between Fortyseventh and Forty-eighth streets claim that the purchase prices demanded of them were excessive. In a transition locality there is always room for wide latitude of opinion as to what constitutes market value. However, the trustees unquestionably tried to reach a fair estimate. Appraisals were obtained from three of the leading brokerage houses in the city. The average of the figures furnished for each lot was made its sell-

ing price. It is interesting to note what some of these prices were. The northerly half of the Fifth avenue block front, 100 by 100 feet, offered without building restrictions, was valued at \$875,000, of which \$295,000 was for the corner lot. The Forty-eighth street lots averaged \$2,-368 a front foot; the Forty-seventh street lots, \$2,108 a front foot. On the basis of these figures, the four blocks comprising what was once the Elgin Botanical Garden should be worth \$20,500,000. When the property was granted to Columbia by the State in 1814 it was appraised at \$74,000. The college has enjoyed an income from it since 1860.

The First City Born President.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT is a native of New York city—the first native of this city, or of any large city of the country, to hold the office of President of the United States.

GEORGE WASHINGTON was born in a small town in Westmoreland county, Va.; JEFFERSON at Shadwell, MADISON at Port Conway, the first HARRISON at Berkeley, TYLER at Charles City, and MONROE at a small settlement in Westmoreland county—all in Virginia. JACKconting, as our vast correspondence on leasehold sites.

So long as the property remains in use isolated settlement on the border line cand prefound is this spirit of inquiry for private dwellings, can the university between North and South Carolina.

JOHN ADAMS and JOHN QUINCT ADAMS were born in Quincy, Mass. GRANT was a native of Point Pleasant, Ohio; GAR-FIELD of Hiram, HARRISON of North Bend, HAYES of Delaware, and WILLIAM MCKINLEY of Niles-all in Ohio. POLK was born at Pineville, a settlement in Mecklenburg county, N. C., a town of less than 600 inhabitants. ABRAHAM LINCOLN was born at a small settlement in Larue, then Hardin, county, Ky.; Gen. TAYLOR at a small settlement in Virginia: FRANKLIN PIERCE at Hillsboro, Mass.; JAMES BUCHANAN at Cope Gap, Pa.; ANDREW JOHNSON at Raleigh, N. C. Of

the New York Presidents, MARTIN VAN

BUREN was born at Kinderhook, N. Y .;

at Fairfield, Vt., and GROVER CLEVELAND at Caldwell, N. J. The cities of the country have exercised in the commercial, political and professional affairs of the country an influence very far in excess of their voting population, but in the long line of Presidents THEODORE ROOSEVELT is the first President born in a city of the first class-or, indeed, in a "city" of any

description. Canadians and "Americans."

A short time ago a Canadian called us to order for our use of the word American in a reference to the citizens of the United States. The Toronto Globe of June 21 comments as follows on Mr. HAY's recent announcement regarding that term:

" If he can succeed in making this substituti general and permanent, he will be credited by future generations with having conferred a real service on his long-suffering countrymen, and especially his fellow littérateurs and journalists. It is so much easier and neater to say ' the American Consul' than it is to say 'the Consul of the United States of America.'

"There may be a division of opinion among our American cousins as to both the desirability and the practicability of the proposed change, and possibly Congress may have to legislate either complete surprise to the tenants. To to turn Mr. Har down or help him out. This is some of them it meant considerable purely domestic aspect of the matter, as to which foreigners need not express any opinion or even have one. If the people of the United States indicate that they are virtually unanimous in desiring to make the substitution then a way of legalisin it will speedily be found. If, on the other hand, they overwhelmingly resent the proposal, then it will be very premptly drepped. In this matter vox populi vox del.

So far as Canadians are concerned, as they can not prevent the change from being carried out, it would be foolish to protest against it. But a little consideration may perhaps make clear to us that we will gain rather than lose by the new distinguishing titles. If the people of the United States arrogate to themselves the epithet 'American' we have still the epithet 'Canadian' to offset it. As in actual every-day practice we never call outselves Americans,' we need not regret losing the chance f doing so without fisk of being misunderstood Canadians' is a good enough name in the estimation of the people who have a historical and geographical monopoly of it, and the proposal of Mr. HAY, if it is adopted, will help to keep the distinction between the two adjoining countries clear to the minds of our kinsmen in Great Britain."

Inasmuch as we are generally known as Americanos, and are so called throughout Latin America, north and south, and now have the consent and approval of the official organ of the Canadian Government, there seems to be no obstacle to our use of the word, if we care to use it. The main point is that it behooves us to live up to the title.

The City Hall Park.

There will never be erected any rail- friend. It is not regarded as likely, however, road structure, temporary or permathat these will be placed on the general nent, in City Hall Park if SAMUEL market for the present. Until disen- PARSONS, Jr., the landscape architect record. The office which he holds was created primarily to preserve the park system in its entirety and to protect it from such unwarranted encroachments as Bridge Commissioner BEST suggests for the relief of the crush at the Brooklyn Bridge. In the Landscape Architect is lodged the power of veto. Section 611 of the Charter says:

" The [Park] Board may employ * * a landcape architect, skilled and expert, whose assent shall be requisite to all plans and works or changes thereof respecting the conformation, development or ornamentation of any of the parks, squares or public places of the city, to the end that the same may be uniform and symmetrical at all times." Mr. Parsons is skilled and expert.

His long and distinguished service in the Park Department warrants this assertion. He has consistently opposed all schemes for the disfigurement of the parks or for their use for any other purposes than those for which they were created.

He is now in a position to do a very great thing for the people of New York.

CECIL RHODES'S vision of a railway from Cape Town to Alexandria, called, for the sake of suphony, the "Cape to Cairo." promises to become a reality in the not far distant future. A train left Cape Town on June 22 for Victoria Falls, 1,600 miles to the north. The line from Cairo southward now runs well into the great country of the Sudan. Practically two-thirds of the dream of the great South African exploiter is already an accomplished fact.

As a transportation line this route stands on a par with the proposed Pan-American. For through traffic it will be almost useless. Rail rates for freight cannot compete with water rates. For through passenger traffic also it would be almost hopeless. The voyage from Southampton to Cape Town a distance of a little less than 6,000 miles, may now be made, with every possible comfort, in two weeks on liners of nearly 600 feet in length, like the Saxon, the Armadale Castle, and the Kenilworth Castle.

In point of time, little would be saved by the rail route. In point of comfort, everything would be lost. Seven days and nights on the cars through equatorial Africa would be no picnic. Two weeks of seasickness would be almost a luxury in comparison with its discomforts and miseries under the best of transportation conditions. The cold of a trans-Siberian trip may be shut out. The burning heat of the African sun, combined with the inevitable fatigue, would be almost unendurable.

The mission of the Cape to Cairo line will be to open up the resources of Central

Africa. The Child Population of Heaven.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sit: One of your correspondents seems to justify the destruction of children on the Slocum as a measure of a loving Providence by saying that heaven would be a dul place without children. The circumstance nearly half of the deaths in the ordinary c of nature are of children under five years of age
would seem to surgest that there is no necessity
for the special and wholesale killing of a Sunday
school accuration party in order to recruit the child

FOUR QUESTIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: 1 have with seal and curiosity read the speeches thus far made at the Roosevelt convention at Chicago by the Cabinet offioer, Mr. Payne, who called the convention to order; by the recent Cabinet officer, Mr. Foot, the temporary chairman; by Mr. Cannon, the permanent chairman, who is Speaker of the Republican House at Washington; as well as the reported remarks by another Cabinet officer, Mr. Shaw, and the utterances of sundry and various Senators who are in attendance as chairmen of committees, and of the one who is to be the candidate for Vice-President. None of those officials vouchsafes the information I have for a long time been wishing to get on these

FILLMORE at Summerhill, N. Y.; ARTHUR 1. What did Mr. Roosevelt intend by his menacing remark at Minneapolis in 1901, that the United States and the several States must modify their attitude toward property?

> 2. What has been the effect on the United States of that which Mr. Root described as the wide difference "in temperament and methods" between McKinley and Roosevelt?

3. Why did the prosperity of the country begin to subside soon after Roosevelt became President; and why has that process gone on to such an extent as to compe railways to discharge from employment over 75,000 workingmen?

4. Why have so few or none of the prominent Republicans, outside of the official classes, been permitted to be conspicuous in the deliberations at Chicago?

NEW YORK, June 25.

Mr. Blaine and Dr. Burchard. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: One of your correspondents claims that in the mem-orable campaign of 1884 James G. Blaine made no public statement relative to the famous Burchard incident, which, it is generthe result of that contest, if, indeed, it didn't actually cost "the Plumed Knight" the elec-tion. If the Rev. Dr. Henry Davenport Northrop's "Life and Public Services of James G. Blaine" may be cited as an authority, Mr. Blaine not only alluded to the minister's unfortunate utterance, but took pains specifically to repudiate the sentiment it expressed. Dr. Northrop says that in New Haven Mr. Blaine delivered the following address referring to Dr. Burchard's remarks:

There has been placed in my hands since my arrival in New Haven an address from the clergymen of this city expressing their respect and conndence, and, through the person who delivered it the assurance that in matters of public right and in matters of public participation under the laws and Constitution of the United States they know no seet; they know no Protestant, no Catholic, no Hebrew, but the equality of all. In the city of Hartford I had a letter put in my hands asking me why I charged the Democratic party with being inspired by "rum, Romanism and rebellion." My answer, in the first place, is that they put in my mouth an unfortunate expression of another man; and, in the next place, it gives me an opportunity to say, at the close of the campaign, that in public speeches I have made I have refrained from mal ing any disrespectful allusion to the Democratic party. I differ from that party profoundly on matters of principle, but I have too much respect for the millions of my countrymen whom it em-braces to assas it with epithets or abuse. In the next place, I am sure that I am the last man in the States guarantees freedom of religious opinion, and before the law and under the Constitution the Protestant and the Hebrew stand entitled to absolutely the same recognition and the same protection; and if disrespectful allusion is here to be made against the religion of any man, as I have said, I am the last man to make it; though Protestant by conviction and connected with a Protestant Church, I should esteem myself of all men the most degraded if, under any pressure or under any temptation. I could in any presence make a

These brave words were spoken on Nov. 1, under the very shadow of the defeat so soon to follow, and which I firmly believe he foresaw. In my judgment, Mr. Blaine fell a victim to the misguided zeal of a misguided friend.

JOSEPH W. HOLLISTER.

PITTSFIELD, Mass., June 23.

A Medical Hero.

ful agony for five days, died, leaving, I believe, wife and two children in Baltimore.

Now, I do not wish to detract one lots from the credit that the world owes Dr. Reed; he deserves it. that just as much credit is due Dr. Lasear, who knowing of the dangers, voluntarily submitted himself to be inoculated by the infected mosquito and lost his life.

and lost his live.

I believe that Congress, in a moment of kindness, gave his widow a pension of \$30 a month.

B. F. Showskian, M. D.

BATAVIA, N. Y., June 22.

An Ancient Catholic Collect.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: May I enter a mild protest against the good Lutherans' claim to that beautiful prayer quoted by Mr. William Price in your paper of to-day? That collect is, and has been for centuries (long before the Lutheran. or any other Protestant Church existed), in the service books of the venerable Church-Catholic Apostolic and Roman-at whose alters the under dgned has the privilege to serve. I give the origi-

"Protector in te sperantium Deus, sine que nikil set validum, nibil senctum; multiplica super nos ordiam tuam; ut te rectore, te duce, alo transcamus per bona temporalia amus mterns. NEW YORK, June 22.

The Tiger's Sex. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Can there be any question about the gender of a creature which is so fond of the boys as the Tammany Tiger? NEW YORK, June 24.

At the Intelligence Office. Henry Peck-I want to get a cook for my wife. Manager-Ask the girl on the end. She might

The Vacant Pallman Chair. Will he miss his former pleasures In the soon-to-be campaign? Will be miss them, now his office Bids him allently remain In seclusion, while another Boards the Stumpidential train?

Will he miss the Roman candles And the colored fire's flare, While the village band was halling Him as chief, with breasy blare? Will he miss the town committee And the yelling everywhere? Will he miss them?

Gosh!

Well!

Will he miss the stanch admirer In the crowd before the stand. Who declared in husky accents That the speech he made was grand? Will be miss the honest farmer Who extends his humble hand? Will he miss them!

Say! Will he miss the whisting special? Will he miss its grinning crew! Will he miss the daily questions Will he miss them all when others Do the things he used to do!

ARTEUR H. FOLWELL

CHRISTIANITY.

An Answer to the Correspon Argued That It Is Dying Out.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The scholarly letter of your correspondent at Tarrytown is somewhat appalling. It would form a very strong argument for relegating Christianity to the position of a defunct religious system, such as that of ancient Egypt, or ancient Rome, if its assumptions

were correct. But they are not.

I consider two questions raised by your correspondent, namely: First, will Christianity disappear by the gradual process of decay, when it ceases to be popular in the world; and, second, when men do not go to church, and churches are empty, must these conditions be regarded as evidences of the gradual decay of the Christian religion? The documents of Christianity contained in the New Testament are manifestly the

productions of various authors, and profess to give an account of the rise of the mission of one of "the many Messiahs," to whom your correspondent refers: Jesus of Nazareth, the reputed son of a carpenter, who claimed to be the Son of God, who was condemned (and to all appearances justly condemned) by the threefold verdict of the Sanhedrin, which found Him guilty of blasphemy in claiming to be the Son of God; the Roman law, which found Him guilty of treason, claiming to be a king, and the voice of the people, who demanded His death because He

taught a system of morals contrary to the received opinions of the people.

In the first place, the Master implies that His religion was not intended for universal adoption. It is "the way" (an expression common to all systems of religion) which is some contrary control of the control of th is very narrow, very difficult and which few will find. In process of time "the love of many will wax cold," there will be "a falling away," and when the great Teacher again, as He promises, He will "not find faith in the earth." In the light of these passages I am surprised to find that Christianity in this remote age is so popular. Paul even goes so far as to state that the religion of this Messiah will not commend itself either to the wealthy or the wise. He says: "Not many wealthy or the wise. He says: "Not many mighty, not many noble, are called, but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise." In the light of these statements I am surprised to find so many kings, statesmen, millionaires and philosophers professing to believe in this Messiah in an enlightened age like the present. The idea of exclusion from what is called "the world" is so strong a feature in this religious system that I lind John advises "an elect lady and her children" not to receive into their house any one who does not believe in the mission of the Messiah. Taken all together, I should be disposed to place Christianity among those religions which are not intended to be universal. It seems to be exclusive in its discipleship, almost as exclusive as the Hindulsm of the Vedas and the brother-hood of the Persian fire worshippers, certainly not intended to be universal until the Messiah again appears.

In endeavoring to answer the second question—whether the assumed fact that men do not go to church and congregations are largely made up of women is an evidence of the gradual decay of Christianity—I find that they were "devout women" who, rather than men, stood by the original Teacher at the most trying time of His life and who seem to have exerted a mighty influence in the days of the Apostles. When Paul, the newly converted preacher passes over to Europe and visits the great Roman colony at Philippi, he deliberately selects a congregation made up entirely of women. A tradeswoman, lydia, is his first convert, and the first Christian mission to Europe is hospitably entertained by this woman. Turning over the pages of a letter written by Paul to an exclusive little community in the worldly capital of the great Roman empire, I find the salutations at the conclusion of that letter very largely addressed to women.

This process of thought seems to me conclusive and the mistake which is made in the present day is in supposing that the world is the Church is the Korland by the writers in this C mighty, not many noble, are called, but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to

To the Editor of The Sun—Sir: I have read with a great deal of interest your editorial in today's Sun on Dr. Walter Reed. Every word of it is true.

The board of which Dr. Reed was chairman was composed, besides himself, of Dr. Lazear and Dr. Carroll, each of whom deliberately submitted himself to be inoculated by mosquitoes known to carry the yellow fever germ.

Dr. Carroll, who, by the way, is now in Washington and the one member of the board living, was stricken with the fever, and for three successive days cablegrams where sent to this country despairing of his life and he was months in recovering. Dr. Lazear, however, after suffering the most fright.

more than half a century, and I find many more men go to church now than did fifty years ago.

In the Christian world at large I see no evidence of decay. The last two Popes of Rome, Leo XIII, and Pius X., have not only been men eminent in piety, but also of the widest spiritual influence. So far as the Church of England is concerned, the progress is something marvellous. When Caroline, the illustrious consort of George II., and Walpole ruled the Church, Bishop Butler was almost the only Bishop who believed anything. This was about the year 1746. So far as America is concerned, conditions were almost as bad. Then, going back to the earlier ages when Christianity was the newly adopted religion of the Roman Empire, I find Chrysostom, the Bishop of Constantinople, complaining that even on Sundays the theatres were filled and the churches empty. Now we live in a day when Christianity has been extended to almost every corner of the earth, and when Emperors and Kings and Presidents are found worshipping in Christian temples Sunday after Sunday.

Your correspondent says that "Now men do not pray." This may be his experience at Tarrytown, but it is not my experience in the great wide world. I found thousands of men praying devoutly in the Cathedral at Milan, and in Notre Dame, in Paris. I found thousands of men praying under the dome of St. Paul's, London, moved to this enthusiasm by the stirring eloquence of the present Bishop of London. During last Lent old Trinty Church, New York, was filled with praying men.

Fifty years ago the secular press completely ignored Christianity: now it is found to be a most interesting subject, and one which often occupies columns of our very best papers.

But even if it were otherwise, it would not affect the truth of the religion of the Naza-

which often occupies columns of our very best papers.

But even if it were otherwise, it would not affect the truth of the religion of the Nazarene. "It still moves!"

I remember reading somewhere in the writings of Dumas that during the time of the Borgias a great French infidel went to Rome to write a book on the decay of the Christian faith. He returned and exclaimed: "Truly, as the great Master hath said, the Church is founded on a rock. The condition of things is so bad that if there had not been some higher power sustaining and guiding the destinies of the Church she would have disappeared long ago."

The has been the position of Christianity

tinies of the Church she would have disappeared long ago."

This has been the position of Christianity from the very first. The religion of Jesus is not of the world. It is a spiritual system, working in the world and standing as a protest against the opinions of the world. As Mazzini, the Italian patriot, once said: "We worship Jesus as the founder of an age which freed the individual. I glory atill in the cross of Jesus, which is the symbol of the one true immortal virtue, the sacrifice of self."

Yes, it is this very "cross," which St. Paul says he preached and which was a "stumbling hold to the Jew and foolishness to the Greek."

THOMAS P. HUGHES.

BROOKLYN, June 24.

The "Church of This World" to Succeed Christianity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir. learned correspondent of June 20, "G. H. C.," shows clearly enough that within the last forty years our knowledge of the origin, des-tinies and duties of man has become completely revolutionized by the discoveries of natural and economic science. The result of all this, as he shows, is the religious and moral interregnum of which many people have complained. Christianity has lost its power for good and is passing; not one-third of the people have anything to do with the churches, and those who go patronize them as adjuncts to the police, or for show of wealth; or from social or business motives. But the soul of the thing is passing, and must

inevitably pass, with the last vestige of be-lief in its veracity. This complete overturn of the old view of to get out of the dark room.

the world and its religious began with the introduction by Bruno and Galileo of the

the world and its religious began with the introduction by Bruno and Galileo of the Copernican astronomy, the consequences of which are more and more apparent as time and science advance, until now only the dullest can fail to see and feet the results.

This change, which has been taking place for 300 years, is the greatest event in the history of the human race. It is inevitable, and there is nothing to do but for the people to prepare for its acceptance and realization, religiously and morally, just as they have done in politics, commerce, science and all secular affairs. We are now inclosing all the oceans in and with our civilization; but our religion, and consequently our morality, is at bottom the view of a world which inneteen hundred years ago only fringed the Mediterranean and looked up to a "firmament" as the "heaven" above it, and down to the "helis" beneath its volcances. That whole view has been overthrown by the modern science accepted by every reasonable man. See President White's "Warfare of Science and Theology," Prof. Draper's similar work, the introduction to Prof. Leeter F. Ward's "Dynamic Sociology," and all modern scientific works on astronomy, physics, hiology, psychology and sociology.

There is no help for it; not a single tenet of the religion of our youth can stand a moment except by keeping the light of science off from it. The devi-wase of the religion of centuries is upon us.

Those who, like 'Q H. C.," call the attention of the public to the real cause of the prevailing deficiencies of our education in morality, culture and conscience are doing our Hepublic a real service.

What, then, is the remedy—what after, and in place of, the departing religions? The answer given by the scientists above named and others is plain: The new, the scientific view of the world, which has dethroned the old, the chological, view and its religious, must replace them. This is the way out, and the only way.

"The Church of This World" is a fact. It and similar attempts have the approval of scientists a

THE RIDDLE OF THE UNIVERSE. Complaints Because "The Sun" Gives It Up.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT: Are not our ideas in regard to "God's love," "God's mercies,"
"future existence," &c., all founded upon seifishness? Does not the same Power which brings man into existence also bring the horse, the dog and the lowly ant into existence? Is there as much differ-ence between the lowest order of animate creation and man as there must be between man and that Power which can control the destinies of us all? In His sight is there any difference between the ant, ever busy, and "the lord of creation," busy part of the time? May not any such difference be in favor of the ant who does not waste time in trying to fathout the mystery of existence, but

trying to fathom the mystery of existence, but keeps on doing the best it knows how? You are not expected to answer any of these questions, but are they not more rational than some of the queries and propositions with which you have been inflicted since the lamentable Slacum THOMAS B. SWIFT. ELIEABETH, June 28.

Mr. Langdon Persists in His Opinion. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: You printed my letter of recent date, in which I commented upon the tragedy of the General Slocum, and I am neither surprised nor scared by the storm of pro-test it brought forth. For your criticism I thank you—it was fair and manly. But we are all still as we were, and will always be. I venture to say that those who have criticised me have neither lost money, wives, children nor friends. "Let the galled jade wince, their withers are unwrung." same idea of a good and beneficent God as have the

mothers living in Fifth avenue palaces.

Can you or others tell me where the goodness of a benign and merciful God shows itself? come to life every day, aye, every hour, yet it is necessary to have a society to protect many of the unfortunate youngsters against the brutality of those responsible for their being. I shall doubtless be met with the eternal reply that we know nothing and must not seek to penetrate the mystery, and I suppose this condition will obtain until the crack of doom. WILLIAM COVERLY LANGDON.

BROOKLYN, June 28.

The Cotton Broker's Dissatisfaction. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir. Permit me to ask that you do not repeat the "offence" of beginning an editorial with a pica of ignorance, and closing it with a display of superlative knowledge. You say in conclusion: "Either you must take the dogmatic theological explanation, purely on faith, or you must make inexorable natural law the ruler of man's destiny, and draw from this terrible disaster the single lesson that man must find out this law, obey it and use it for his benefit, or else be crushed under its merciless operation." Now, what has this dogma ever accomplished except dwarfing that which we call intellect, or

obstructing that which the world recognises as progress? your last clause comprehends all there is to know. You refer to "natural law." This is precisely what the ignorant, the superstitious and weak minded attempt to personify as God. They supplicate it and pray to it with a faith that may be sublime, but is none the less pittable. It is increasible, and no human plea changes it.

You tentatively remark that "man must and all." Vour last clay

You tentatively remark that "man must find out this law." In this case there was nothing to find out. Enough was known, but knowledge was not active; hence the "merciless operation."

This assertion may be safely applied to matters physical, economical and sociological. physical, economical and sociological.

The dominance of ignorance and the influence of so-called faith are with us in great force; yet there is existent sufficient knowledge and wisdom largely to counteract if not nullify their evil effects, if that knowledge and wisdom should be properly

Mr. Editor, you clearly know enough. The exercise of a journalistic courage equal in degree to your comprehension of things would soon make New York, June 28.

Hope in the Riddle of the Universe. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Str: "E. W.," whom you describe as a Lutheran woman, seems to be sadly shaken in her faith by the Slocum tragedy. Having stated the doubts which the occurrence sawakens in her, she says: "It is easy, but not soul satisfying, to give it all up as an insoluble riddle." This is precisely where I take issue with her. The fact that this, that all things are an

insoluble riddle, is the one sure hope we have of a future existence.

The more unmeaning I find life, the more unjust the laws of nature appear to be, the more cruel the decrees of destiny appear to my earth bound intelligence, the more sure I am that some way, some where, at some time the solution in absolute good will be manifested to human beings. Of all the unthinkable things, the notion of a Universe fecundating in personality only to make a mock of it is the most unthinkable, and there is no third alterna-tive besides that and a life in which we shall know.

A BELIEVER IN PROVIDENCE NEW YORK, June 24.

Sympathetic Words From a Minnesota Church. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor of the First Congregational Church of Hutchinson, Minn., feeing keenly for those who have so recently been because by the General Slocum catastrophe, wish the courtesy of your columns to extend their full and hearifelt sympathy to the bereaved and stricken friends whose loved ones were so cruelly destroyed by fire and water. Our hearts are very tender toward them and we do not forget to pray

Especially do we wish to be remembered to the minister of the parish and managers of the excursion who planned what they thought would be a blessing, but which proved a "baptism of fire." bleesing, but which proved a "baptism of fire."
And we would not forget the masters of the ship on whom so many seem to frown in their hour of dark. be tempered with mercy. Very cordially yours,

in deepest sympathy,
E. L. BROOKS, Paster.
Miss MYRTLE HOOPER, Cor. Sec.

HUTCHINGON, Minn., June 22. Pleased With the Prespect.

From the Kanses City Journal.

Sheriff Dienst of Labette county recently took
Rastus Rose, a photographer, to the insane asylum
at Osawatomie. Mr. Rose was pleased with much that he saw along the road. He continually re-gretted the absence of his camera, which prevented him from preserving the beautiful landscapes through which the train was passing. Arriving at Osawatomie, he was enraptured with the gardens Osawatomie, he was enraptured with the gardens and shrubbery surrounding the asylum. "You like it, do you?" asked the Sheriff. "Like it! Like "exclaimed the prisoner. "Why, if I'd knows was like this, I'd have gone crazy a year ago."

Art Note From the Levant.

Jonah was thinking of his picture
"I always wanted to be done in oil," he remarked.
but I never thought it would be in blubber."